

MAY 29 1923

NO SEGREGATION IN CITY SPORTS

Community Service Withdraws Application for Court

Following allocation of one of the tennis courts in Beaver Ponds park to the use of ~~colored citizens~~ a request to that effect having been made by the Community Service of this city, a number of colored residents in the vicinity of College Woods property made application for the use of tennis courts in that section, it was announced today. This request, however, was turned down, since the city has neither wish nor authority to segregate its playgrounds.

Mr. Lander of the park department, who has charge of making assignments for the use of playgrounds, baseball fields and tennis courts, felt that inasmuch as the tennis court was being specially allocated for the use of colored citizens at Beaver Ponds park, and inasmuch as the demand for the use of the court in the College Woods section was very great that he could not comply with the request of the colored residents for the use of the College Woods court. In consequence of this ruling the Community Service today issues the following statement which is self-explanatory:

"In view of the unfortunate impression that the reservation of one of the proposed new tennis courts in Beaver Pond park for the use of the colored department of Community Service means the exclusion of colored people from other municipal tennis courts, Community Service has withdrawn its application for the use of the court in question, as it could not afford to appear to lend any countenance to racial discrimination in the use of city property."

It was stated today that the park authorities and the park board agree with the Community Service in the matter and that Mr. Lander intends to revise the ruling which was made under the erroneous impression that inasmuch as certain courts were to be allocated for the use of colored citizens that the other courts would be used exclusively by white folks. It is stated emphatically today that it is neither the intention of the park authorities nor the Community Service.

"TIDAL BASIN OR NO BEACH" POPULAR SLOGAN

Plan to Locate Beach in
Virginia Started by
Col. Sherrill

WEEKS HAS FINAL SAY

Washington D.C.
Will Reserve Decision Until
Opponents are Given
Hearing

The Washington Tribune

The re-instating of an item of \$25,000 in the District appropriation bill to be used for the construction and maintenance of an exclusive colored bathing beach, to be erected at the Virginia end of the new Key bridge, has caused widespread comment and criticism.

1/27/23.

The problem of establishing a jim crow bathing beach has been under discussion for over two years. The project has been bitterly fought by every civic and commercial organization controlled by colored people in Washington. Time and time again the proposed site of the beach has been moved by the District authorities in hopes of finding enough colored people to endorse it so as to justify locating of a beach; but each time the protests have been so strenuous until a change of plan would have to be made.

Now the latest move is to locate the jim crow beach over in Virginia. Already the United Civic Centers committee has protested this site, even before the District bill was up in Congress and Secretary of War Weeks promised that he would not locate the

beach in Virginia. The committee heard from the colored people who are directly interested. Several delegations from the Civic Centers Association issued a report of their interview with Mr. Weeks which was published in this paper last fall.

The committee representing the Civic Center of Affiliated Association of the District of Columbia, conferred with the Secretary of War last fall and assured him that under no consideration would any location for a bathing beach other than on the Tidal Basin be accepted by the colored citizens as long as the Tidal Basin was used for bathing purposes. Mr. W. D. Dixon, president of the Civic Center says that no doubt was left in the Secretary's mind as to the stand taken by his committee last June when they called on him and maintained throughout the five meetings held with Secretary Weeks after that date, calling for a beach on "The Tidal Basin" or no beach. Mr. Nixon further impressed Mr. Weeks with the fact that the Negro citizens of the District of Columbia, who constitute one-fourth of its population, are denied a beach on the Tidal Basin, which is government property.

The colored people would rather see the \$25,000 revert back to the U. S. Treasury than have a beach anywhere else as long as the Tidal Basin is used for bathing.

The committee also made it plain to Mr. Weeks that when the present beach is removed from the Tidal Basin as indicated by the Secretary, they would expect a colored beach to share in the new location.

The plan to locate the beach in Virginia is principally fostered by Col. Sherrill, in charge of public buildings and grounds in the District. Sherrill is a Wilson holdover and hails from North Carolina. Apparently he has had the backing of President Harding in his plan to jim crow the District. A separate bathing beach is not the first evidence of Sherrill's desire to foster race prejudice as he has on several occasions tried to post jim crow signs in the public parks.

Secretary of War Weeks has the final say as to the location of the beach and he stated this week that he would not take final action until he had

Dedicate Another "Jim Crow" Park in D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 7.—Dedication of the site donated to the Negro Baptists by the Washington Development Corporation took place Wednesday afternoon with elaborate ceremonies. The principal address on this occasion was delivered by the Rev. Dr. E. W. Moore, of Pittsburgh, Pa., field secretary of Negro field work under the American Baptist home mission board of New York. Others on the program were: Rev. R. L. Brady, of Detroit, Mich.; Rev. B. F. McWilliams, of Toledo, Ohio, and S. B. Butler, of Indianapolis.

BATHING BEACH PLANS DISCARDED BY WAR DEPT.

No Suitable Location is
Given as Excuse by
Sec'y Weeks

Washington D.C.
Unwilling to give the Negroes of Washington a bathing beach on the Tidal Basin where the white beach is located, and unable to find any other location that the Negroes will accept, Secretary of War Weeks has decided to give up the matter for the present, apparently with the hope that time will settle the matter or that the Negroes will forget it.

The War Department officials under Mr. Weeks, have been quibbling over the location of this beach for over two years. Col. C. O. Sherrill, who is under Mr. Weeks, and who President Coolidge recently reappointed in charge of public buildings and grounds has steadfastly refused to approve or recommend a site on the Tidal Basin which is the logical place for the beach.

Secretary of War Weeks has been approached a number of times by various civic organizations on this matter but was refused to give any of them any satisfaction.

The announcement that the beach plans had been given up for the present, comes at a time when Secretary Weeks is a bigger factor in the administration than ever before. It is a known fact that he is one of the powers behind the throne of President Coolidge. If Mr. Weeks desired in any way to be fair in this matter, he would immediately order the beach located on the basin.

The Tidal Basin is maintained by the taxes on the District of Columbia and is an ideal place for a beach, in fact, the only place where such a beach could be established. Because the whites have a beach there and Negroes are excluded, (although they have a perfect right to go there) Secretary Weeks, of the War Department, bows to petty Southern prejudice and refuses to mete out justice to all.

The announcement from the war Department about the beach coupled with the appointment of Col. Sherrill and C. Bascom Sless, is certainly the hand writing on the wall and it is bound to be properly interpreted by all Negroes of the District.

However, the fight for a beach on the Tidal Basin will continue. As Negroes have a just right to use the beach already on the basin, they may just as well assert that right now as any other time. If cheap office holders can dictate just what rights Negroes are to enjoy and what rights they are to be denied, then all that is necessary to bring this form of slavery up to date is to bring back the auction block.

Parks and Recreation — 1923.

Georgia.

NEGRO RESORT POPULAR

The Constitution
Washington Swimming Pool

Attracts Many Picnickers.

~~8-23-23~~
Washington park has grown from a mere swimming pool to the most popular negro resort in Atlanta in one year's time, according to a report of Jackson Milkeny, superintendent of the park, Wednesday. A modern bath house and refreshment stands have been added to the resort and have greatly increased its popularity, he said.

In substantiation of the report, Milkeny said that 1,991 children had been admitted into the swimming pool free during the season and that more than 60 picnics have been held there. Bath lockers are furnished free to bathers.

Parks and Recreation - 1923

Protests Are Made Over At Swimming Pool Discussion Chickasaw Park.

2-17-23

Week before last The News published a statement from the Mayor that a swimming pool would be secured for Colored people despite the ruling or decision of the Water Works Commission that that department could not provide it. Last week an item in The News stated the swimming pool may be located in Chickasaw Park.

From all parts of the city and all classes of people protests have been made that Chickasaw Park is not a desirable place for the swimming pool.

The point has been made that thousands of Colored people will never go to Chickasaw Park. Another point is made that if a swimming pool is provided for Colored people, and as a matter of civic justice it should be—that it should be commensurate in every detail to the one granted the white citizens, and if that is done the agreement is made, that no such pool can be placed in Chickasaw Park.

The News had no authority to say the pool would be located at Chickasaw Park, but a member of the staff heard a rumor to that effect and published it. The statement can be taken for what it is worth, but there must be some fire where there is so much smoke, hence parties who are interested in having a swimming pool and who are against having it placed in Chickasaw Park should organize and present intelligent protests to the Mayor and other authorities.

If strong enough protests are made it is not likely the pool would be placed where it is not wanted.

Kentucky.

At Swimming Pool Discussion Gets Bitter

Heated Arguments In

Louisville News
Louisville, Ky.

3-31-23

It is said the confusion that attended the building of the Tower of Babel had nothing on that that attended the discussion by a number of Colored Citizens who met in the Mayor's office last Friday afternoon to locate the Colored Swimming Pool.

There has been much talk of a swimming pool for colored people. The proposition was turned down by the Water Company, but Mayor Huston Quinn announced it would be built out of funds secured elsewhere. Then the Mayor sent invitations to a number of Colored Citizens to meet at his office and give their ideas as to where the pool should be located.

They met but they did not decide.

Some wanted Chickasaw Park, some wanted Baxter Square, some wanted other places, and one—a preacher—lowed: "Niggers didn't need no swimming pool and wouldn't go to one if it was in the City Hall."

There was a great deal of talk and some of it was very warm and bitter. So warm and bitter that after the meeting two "Brethren of the Cloth" came near going to blows.

THE NEWS publishes certain statements it secured from men who were at the meeting. THE NEWS is against Chickasaw Park as the location for a number of reasons, but that does not keep it from publishing the statement of any who

Mayor's Office

want the pool in that place.

Severe critics of the meeting who charge those who attended with "making fools of themselves" because they differed and stood by their own views should remember that Every Man Has A Right To His Own Views and the Mayor Invited Them to His Office To Get Their Views.

He could not get, and would not expect, fifty or a hundred men of Any RACE OR COLOR to agree on any one thing. Then why expect a large number of Colored men to agree at once on a given spot for such a thing as a swimming pool?

Dr. C. C. Stewart, Pastor of Broadway Temple made the following statement:

To His Honor The Mayor and Board of Park Commissioners.

Gentlemen:—The question of the location of the swimming pool for Negro children enters into the very vital life of the local body politic of the city.

First—Since the city has established such a pool for the white children and recognizing the fact that it is supposed to be the policy of the City Administration to give equal rights and privileges to its Negro citizens, especially as it pertains to their health.

It is therefore my opinion that the location of the swimming pool in any section of the city that will prove detrimental to their health

and economically against them will be out of harmony with a sound policy of the City Administration.

In the first instance there are several reasons that need not be stated why Chickasaw Park may not be regarded a proper place for a swimming pool. One is we do not regard it as conducive to health. Two, from an economic standpoint the poorer class of our Negro citizens would have to come from an extreme end of the city, which would cost from twelve to fourteen cents for street car fare for one, and where there are more than one in the family it would involve an extreme hardship financially.

It is therefore my opinion if it is the desire of the city administration to help the poorer citizens as well as all concerned then a more centrally located site should be selected.

So without a long discussion, taking in consideration the area of the city and the location of its Negro population that the location of this swimming pool at 11th and Jefferson street would be the logical place.

Now, gentlemen, if you desire to harmonize the sentiments of the Negroes of the city in favor of the policy of the present administration you will not be able to do that if you go to an extreme in either Chickasaw park, and never permit case, for there are a large number of citizens who will never go to their children to go there.

Bpt you will hardly find any Negro citizens whose children will go to a swimming pool, but what will take advantage of the opportunity of the offer of the city elsewhere.

The Views of Prof. J. E. Harris,
Head of the U. N. I. A.

The committee called by the Mayor with reference to the building of a swimming pool for colored children met in the Mayor's office

in the City Hall building, March 23, at which time representatives representing every group of our race in the city of Louisville were present. Their duty was to decide as they had been asked by the Mayor and Councilmanic Chamber to decide upon the most centrally located place for the building of a swimming pool to be convenient for all the colored people, and every right minded thinking man or woman who is deeply concerned in the welfare of the race knows that it should be built in either the ninth or tenth ward. Then every girl and boy could have equal access to this pool. The peculiar significance about this matter, from Prof. Harris' viewpoint, which he said was most perplexing, is that the Mayor and Council took one evening to decide to give the colored citizens of Louisville a swimming pool, and then called the representatives of the colored people together and asked them to decide on the most convenient place for all the people and they should have it at once, but because some wanted things done to suit their own selfish motives, therefore we could not decide.

The writer believes that a thorough understanding should be about between the leaders, and on again appear before the Mayor and Council we should be able to say where and when, and finish the question of the swimming pool, and then take up the question of a dozen or more policemen of the race to add to this 450 police force of this city.

J. EDW. HARRIS.

STATEMENT OF DR. BOND,

Director of the Inter-Racial Commission, Made Before Mayor Quinn and Members of the City Council.

Louisville, Ky., March 23, 1893.

Hon. Mayor and Members of the

City Council:

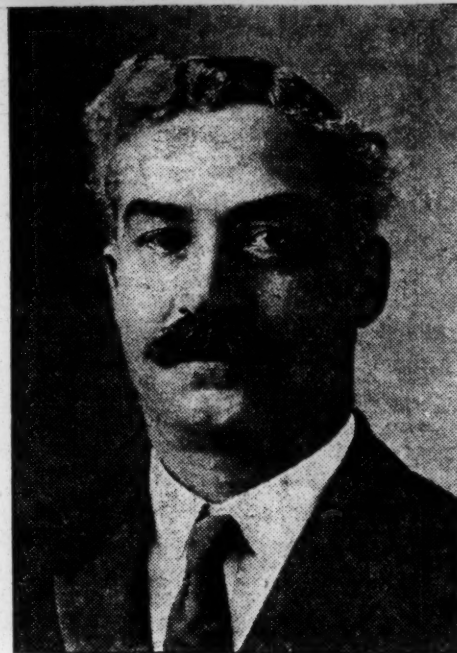
Few conferences ever held in Louisville have been more significant and promised more far-reaching results than the one which is engaging our attention at this time. That the City of Louisville has definitely decided to build for the colored population of the city a great public utility, a swimming pool for the recreation, comfort, enjoyment and good health of this group of citizens, representing one-fifth of the entire population of the city, is an event of tremendous and far-reaching importance, and that His Honor, the Mayor, has seen fit to invite a representative group of colored men and women to meet him and the City Council in conference as to location, plans, etc., is an incident deeply appreciated by the colored people, and indicative of the spirit of inter-racial co-operation and good will, which means much to the prosperity of our good city. Representing the Executive Committee of the Inter-Racial Commission for Kentucky and the Inter-Racial Commission of Jefferson County, organizations having for their object the cultivation of better relations between the races and the improvement of the condition of the colored people along lines agreed upon, I desire to express the appreciation of these organizations for the object and spirit which have prompted this conference, promising so much to the colored people of the city.

In speaking of the location and the plans of the swimming pool, let me say in the beginning, that I voice the sentiments of the organizations which I represent, as well as expressing my own personal opinion. In the second place, let me say that the intense interest manifested by the colored people of the city in this great enterprise is a most hopeful sign. Our very differences of opinion as to plans and location, if there be any, is evidence of the fact that we have felt the need of

and thought seriously and earnestly about this project. If differences of opinion should develop among us, I trust the Honorable Mayor and the City Council will regard these differences as evidences of earnestness and intelligence, and will remember that in the past in the location of similar public utilities for white people the same differences of opinion and spirited friendly controversy characterized the white people in discussing the location and plans of similar enterprises. In fact Honorable Mayor and gentlemen of the City Council, whatever action we might take on this or other matters, we shall be following the precedent set by our white friends, for all we know good and bad we have learned of them. Their thought and life are reflected in ours.

I am sure, however, I can pledge with the greatest of confidence that when these matters are settled and the great swimming pool has been located and the plans perfected, the Mayor and the City Council will have behind them the solidly united colored population of Louisville.

In the location of such an enterprise as the one under contemplation, it seems to me that four or five fundamental principles should be regarded.



Dr. C. C. Stewart, Pastor of Broadway Temple, Who Presented a Concrete Plan for the Placing of the Swimming Pool.

Parks and Recreations - 1923.

Self-Respect of Race Asserts

Itself

The Louisville News, 8-18-23
Daily Paper Comments on Fact Colored

People Ignore Jim Crow Park

Louisville, Ky.
Few People Worth While Go to Chickasaw

Those Colored people who refuse is why The News for one fought to bow at the Baal of Color Prejudice with all its might against the park dice will be glad to read the article and its principle. The News knew below taken from the columns of a precedent was being set for prejudice Thursday's Louisville Times. It re-dice and segregation that would be cords the fact that Colored people hard to meet in the future. Most are ignoring Chickasaw Park, that Colored people of intelligence and crowning insult thrust on the Col-self-respect saw the point and re-ored people of Louisville by the local maintained away. Others saw the point Republicans. It makes good reading but for reasons of their own tried despite the veiled sarcasm anent to lead the thoughtless element of "upper class Negroes," "equal the race to patronize the dump. rights," etc.

The Colored employees of Ewing's The pleasing fact is that the patrons are to be commended for standing on the dump has fallen off for the self-respect of the race. to the extent that it attracts attention. If the Negro would refuse to be in- tion. Opposition to the establish- sulted in shops, in theaters, in every- men of a "special park for Negroes" thing he could check a lot of this was based on the ground that it manufactured silly race prejudice. was a backward step, that it would Intelligent Colored people who re- encourage race hatred and increase refused to go to this jim crow dump prejudice. It was and is just as log- ought not to forget this thing was ical and fair to have separate street fostered on them by the Republican cars for Negroes, or separate squares party.

for Negroes to live on or separate Here's the Times' article, head- cash boxes for Negroes' taxes to go lines and all:

in as to have a "special park for **CHICKASAW PARK**

Negroes," "special park Rzm-ground(Negrose."

DESERTED; BLACKS

FLOCK TO OTHERS

No less authority than Gen. John B. Castleman, Southernor to the manor born and Democrat, declared when he was president of the Board of Park Commissioners that the parks of Louisville belonged to all the people and he even refused to build separate tennis courts and swings at Colored people's request, saying they were citizens and should use the courts and swings already in the parks.

It remained for Republicans whom the Negro vote had put in of- fice to establish a "special park for Negroes," thereby declaring to the world Negroes are social lepers unfit to come in the remotest contact with other races and other humans. That

fallen into into disuse, according to persons who live near the park. Since the opening of Chickasaw Park, one class of Negroes known as the "upper ten," has failed to give the new park any support, pre- ferring rather to visit other parks of the system than Chickasaw. Local

Kentucky.

Negro publications have continuously appealed to their readers to go to other parks than Chickasaw which they call a "Jim Crow" Park— standing on their "rights as equal citizens" under the law.

Complaints during the summer of white residents living adjacent to Cherokee, Iroquois and Shawnee Park have been numerous on account of the activity of Negro parties being held in those parks almost daily. The query of these complaints is: "What has become of Chickasaw Park?"

Refuse to Go to Chickasaw.

Last Thursday the dairy of D. H. Ewing's Sons gave a picnic to its Negro employees, about 100 in number, including their families. Oscar Ewing says he supposed the picnic would be in Chickasaw Park, but after consulting his employees they refused to accept his hospitality in that park and suggested that Shawnee Park would be all right. On that morning the Negroes assembled in the southwestern end of Shawnee Park and took possession all day of the tennis courts and baseball diamonds in that part of the park, while Chickasaw Park was deserted.

John Goss, superintendent of Parks when asked why this condition existed said that the best class of Negroes had never "taken a liking" to Chickasaw Park and that while the attendance at that park had been light on week days it was comparatively good on Sundays.

Mr. Goss said resident Negroes had just as much right to any of the parks as white persons, but it had been the aim of the present board to have them go to Chickasaw Park, which was purchased for the Negroes' special use. He said that many of the better classes of Negroes would not go to Chickasaw Park, saying that "only common Negroes go to that park."

PICNIC SEASON

St. Louis argues
TO BE LIMITED
St. Louis, mo.

**A Ruling By Commissioner
Pape Regarded As Yield-
ing To O'Fallon Park Im-
provement Ass'n's Pro-
test Against Use Of Parks
By Negroes. 2-23-23**

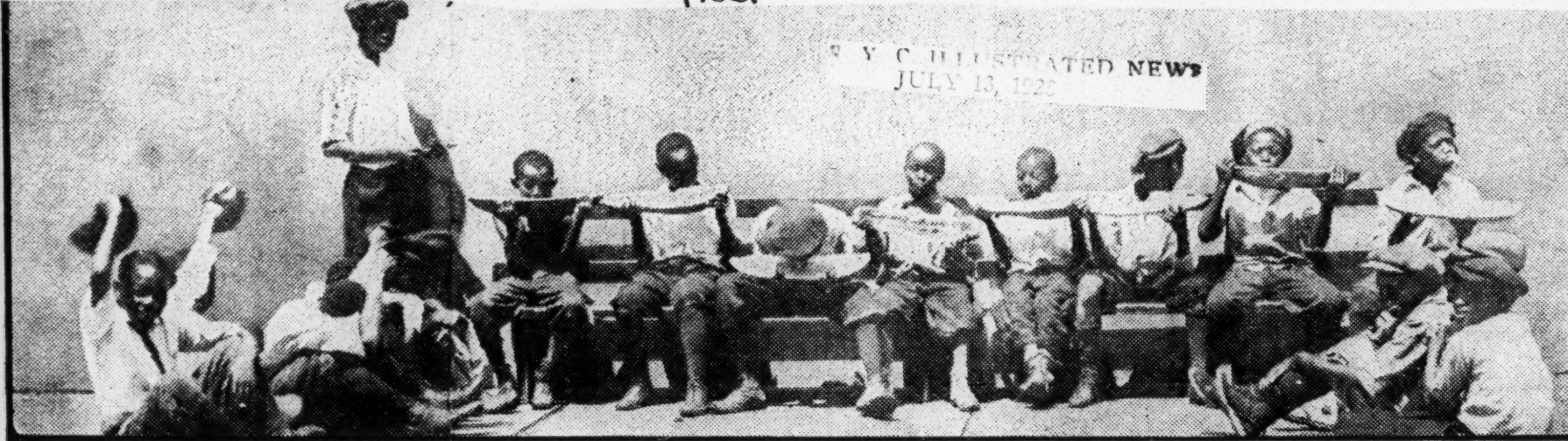
Park Commissioner Pape has figured out a new scheme to practically eliminate picnics from O'Fallon park according to an announcement made Thursday. The report says Pape has ruled that the season during which public picnics will be permitted in the city parks will end on July 4, this year instead of September 1, as has been the custom in the past. Pape said that complaints concerning the condition of the parks had been forwarded to his department. It will be recalled that at the close of the picnic season last year a number of North St. Louis residents organized the O'Fallon Park Protective Association to protest against what they called the excessive use of O'Fallon Park by Negro societies for picnics.

It is Pape's opinion that his ruling shortening the length of the picnic season will satisfy the demands of these citizens that the Negroes be excluded from the park.

"I think that what these people objected to was not the use of the park by the Negroes so much as it was the large number of purely commercial picnics held by the Negroes there," the Park Commissioner said yesterday. "I have so arranged the season now that no public school, Sunday school or parochial school picnics will be kept from enjoying its annual outing in the parks at the beginning of the summer season."

Pape explained that small groups of people may hold picnics in any of the parks at any time during the year by applying for a permit.

Nearly all picnics by Colored Churches, Sunday Schools, day schools and Fraternal organizations are given in O'Fallon park because of conveniences. The first real month for these outings is June. It would be impossible for more than one third of these to squeeze into the time mentioned and the effect will be to discourage the picnic habit altogether.



(NEWS photo)

'HO-HUM!'—These little colored boys at Vacation Play-ground No. 89, Lexington Avenue and 135th Street, had the

Owen and Randolph

Grilled About Money

They Have Collected

The Pittsburgh Courier
American 8-24-23
(Crusader Service)

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—A question agitating Harlem at present, is as to the disposition by Messrs. Randolph and Owen of The Messenger Magazine of certain funds which they were collecting under the name of The Friends of Negro Freedom for the announced purpose of "Fresh Air Outing for Harlem's Colored Kiddies."

It is claimed that the "How Come Company" gave a benefit for this fund and that since the benefit performance nothing has been heard of the projected fresh air outings for the kiddies. There have been no outings.

Recreational Federation

In Harlem Opens Its First Playground on Park Ave.

The Harlem Federation of Recreational Activities was recently organized for the purpose of establishing permanent playgrounds for the children of Harlem, and the first such activity has been opened under the viaduct on Park avenue, above 130th street.

The Harlem group is cooperating with the Parks and Playgrounds Association, which organization is paying salaries of the two trained supervisors, a man and a woman, who will direct the children's play activities at the Park avenue playground. The latter body is also assisting in securing the necessary equipment.

Miss Amelia Wilcher, neighborhood secretary of the New York Urban League, Miss L. Moten of the Park

and Playgrounds Association, Miss De Lutz of the City Recreation Committee and J. H. Hubert, took part in the organization.

Mrs. Bessie Beardon reported opening of two street playgrounds, and Chris Huiswood detailed plans for program of outings, athletic events and recreational activities for a Field Week to be held during August.

CROTON BEACH COLONY NOT CONVENIENT FOR DEVELOPMENT BY RACE

New York Age
300-Acre Tract Is Too Far For the Average Beach-Goer, and Lacks Accessibility.

At the request of R. W. Justice, an Age representative visited the 300-acre tract of land near Croton, N. Y., where a Negro corporation under the leadership of Mr. Justice proposes to establish a colored beach and summer bungalow colony. The impressions gained by The Age representative after looking over the property were:

That the property is much too far from New York to become attractive to the average beachgoer. It is thirty miles from the city, located just opposite Ossining, N. Y., where the Croton River enters the Hudson. The New York Central main line to Albany passes one end of the property, but the fare is \$1.10 on way. There is no other mode of transportation to this property other than by automobile and it requires at least an hour and a half to make the trip in this way. Unless there were some rapid transit facilities offering

time-of their lives yesterday in a spirited watermelon contest. Did the losers scowl? Not a bit!

fast and cheap transportation hardly enough people would become interested in the property to make it a paying proposition, even if improved as a beach.

The property is unimproved and the improvements necessary would cost a considerable amount of money. Running water and sewerage would have to be installed, streets laid out, etc. At present the property is in a run down condition with but one house suitable for living purposes.

Although a large body of water surrounds the property, the beaches are very narrow, as the cliffs rise from the edge of the water in most cases and in no case is there more than twenty feet between the cliff and the edge of the water. In addition to this fact, what beach there is is very rocky and would have to be improved considerably to make it attractive.

There is at present a small summer colony of whites living on the property, mostly in tents. Although they swim, fish and row, they do not consider it a beach but rather a summer camp where one can enjoy all of the primitive life of the country.

Formerly known as the Underhill estate, this tract was purchased by the Cadillac Motor Car Company early in the war for use as a site on which the company was to build a plant for the manufacture of aeroplanes as well as the Cadillac car. The war ended before the plant was started and the company now proposes to sell the property to colored people by the acre or lot for building purposes. Mr. Justice and his corporation suggested the colored people of Harlem would like the site for a summer beach colony, but he seems to have been mistaken for most of the people who view it are disappointed and do not appear willing to risk money in the hope of developing it along the lines indicated.

Parks and Recreation—1923

N. CAROLINA TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE COLORED. RESORT

Shell Island Being Developed by
Local Real Estate Operator as
Recreation Center and Excur-
sion Resort.

LOTS BEING SOLD TO DISCRIMINATING PEOPLE

Wilmington, N. C.—Colored people of this city, surrounding territory and state are soon to have a first class exclusive summer resort, according to the plans projected and being worked out by J. G. Wright and Sons, local real estate operators.

The resort will be located at Shell Island, and will be one of the very few, if not the only exclusive colored summer resort in the country. Shell Island is on the North Carolina coast, about 12 miles from Wilmington by electric car line.

At present there is under erection on the place a beautiful and up-to-date pavilion for dancing, restaurant, soft drink stand, etc. Boardwalks have been installed and electric lights and sewerage will be added before the opening day.

The entire control of the property, every store, concession, etc., is being handled by the colored race.

Shell Island resort promises to be not only a convention and excursion center, but to be the summer home for some of the best citizens of the race. The management is very discriminating in its choice of purchasers of the property, as it is their purpose to maintain nothing short of a high class resort.

The leading white people of Wilmington realize that the movement is destined to fill a much needed place for the large proportion of the colored population, who have not a first class exclusive place for their own recreation center.

It is planned to throw Shell Island open to the public May 1, which will be the occasion for a great celebration for the colored citizens of Wilmington and nearby towns.

North Carolina.

Parks and Recreations—1923. PLAN LARGE AMUSEMENT PARK IN PITTSBURG

The Pitt. Courier, Ind.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Aug. 17. —

A project is being talked about here which, if given the proper backing, will prove the greatest thing ever accomplished by Pittsburgh citizens in the way of amusements.

Several well known business men are considering the purchase of a large tract of land, in an ideal location, for the purpose of erecting a mammoth amusement center. The plans call for a big field and a grand stand of major league proportions, tennis courts and a two-decker dancing pavilion, with the upper part open for use in the summer time, a magnificent club house, and numerous amusement concessions. While nothing definite has yet been accomplished, it is thought that full details will be ready for publication in the near future.

Pennsylvania.

Parks and Recreations—1923.

JUL 7 1923

The Proposed Negro Playground.

Americus Times-Recorder: Negroes of Americus will build and maintain a playground for their children. Rather a commendable move. The playground will be provided for negroes by negroes, which is another commendable thing. This playground means much for Americus negroes. And Americus whites will also be benefited thereby. This is true, because every commendable movement in any community benefits every resident of that community. There are a good many negro residents of Americus who will be benefited by this playground when it is established. Every member of that race here should get behind to "put over" this movement for the betterment of the negro children of Americus.

Only a few weeks ago three negro children were crushed to death while playing in a hideously ugly place. Somebody is responsible for the loss of these lives, negro leaders feel a part of the responsibility is theirs. Maybe it is; maybe it isn't. Anyway, they are looking to the future. They don't want any more accidents of the kind wherein these three negro children had their lives snuffed out. A few years ago such an accident would have passed unnoticed. A lesson learned from the incident is that the negro as a race is progressing. The movement to establish a negro playground in Americus was started soon after this accident. The accident may or may not have instigated the movement. Negro leaders have accepted the responsibility that it is theirs—they will see after the welfare of their children to the best of their ability. And for this they deserve the unstinted praise of every negro.

A playground for Americus negroes shouldn't cost a great deal and every negro here should feel it a privilege and avail himself of the opportunity to help in buying and equipping this recreation ground.

Parks and Recreations — 1923. \$10,000 FOR A MONKEY CAGE, BUT—

Texas.

Several days ago a new item appeared in the daily press, which bore the intelligence that the city council had appropriated ten thousand iron men or berries for a cage for monkeys at the municipal zoo.

The Houston Worker
In view of the fact that the city has done absolutely nothing at Emancipation Park, the only so-called city park for colored people; and coming directly upon the action of the colored board of directors of Emancipation Park in refusing to ask the city for one cent for "Juneteenth" music, the colored citizens are still wondering where and when our park will come in for some consideration from the city fathers.

8/16/23
Ten thousand dollars for a monkey cage, but not one red cent for Emancipation Park!

Ten thousand kopecks for a house for monkeys and yet not one penny for Juneteenth music or park improvements at our own Emancipation Park!

Houston, Texas
Everybody and everything gets more consideration from the municipal government than fully one-third of the city's population, a large number of whom are tax payers and property owners.

We wonder how our colored park trustees felt when they read where the city had given the monkeys more consideration than Emancipation Park, for all the improvements made at the park since the city took it over have hardly reached this amount of money.

All the city has done at Emancipation Park has been to erect an inadequate pavilion, which is too hot in summer and too cold in winter and has never been completed.

The recreation department has installed some equipment for the kiddies, but the city's contributions and improvements at the park have been conspicuous by their absence.

Yes sir, \$10,000 for a monkey cage, but not one copper for improvements at Emancipation Park nor money for music for the race's biggest and grandest day—"Juneteenth."

Maybe the city fathers care more for and are more interested in the monkeys and other animals at the zoo than in their colored citizenry, whose salaries and pleasure trips are made possible by some of the money from colored tax-payers, both directly and indirectly.

We suppose that, if all the colored people of Houston will turn to monkeys, the city will donate some amount for their consideration then; but until such time as we join the monkey family, there seems to be nothing doing at Emancipation Park. ("Br'er Henk" Methridge will now lead us in prayer!)

Fort Worth Provides For Negro Playground

Pittsburgh, Pa.
(Special to Pittsburgh American)

FT. WORTH, Texas, Sept. 14.—The purchase of the Tyler lake property in southeast part of the city, as a site for a Negro park was announced Wednesday morning by George C. Clarke, park superintendent. The city purchased the property from the Ku Klux Klan for a consideration of \$20,000. The property consists of 29.5 acres fronting on East Terrell avenue.

The park department will begin immediately improving the park site, and it will be ready for use next spring. One of the first steps in the improvement will be the building of a high fence around the park. The only entrance will be on Terrell avenue, which is inhabited by Negroes.

One of the largest problems before the city for several months has been that of selecting a site for the Negro park.

ASKS FOR PARK FACILITIES FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

Norfolk, Va.

Mr. John J. Pitt, Fair-Minded

White Citizen, In Letter to

Press Urges a Square-Deal

For Colored Citizenry.

Norfolk Journal

ASKS CITY TO ADOPT

GOLDEN RULE POLICY

and Guide

Mr. John P. Pitt, a substantial white citizen of this city wrote a letter to the Editor of the Virginian-Pilot last week advocating the providing facilities for the colored people of Norfolk.

That letter has attracted no little comment among the colored citizens who have at heart interest in getting for Norfolk recreational facilities that may be enjoyed by all the people.

Coming as it does at this time when there are so many things to beset the southern colored man this advocacy of a square deal by one who is advantaged to personally avail himself of any and all the pleasures and benefits provided by the city, is being heralded as one more cheer in the cup that is filled with disappointment and denials.

Mr. Pitt has the appreciation of every colored citizen in Norfolk for his outspoken attitude on this question, and it is believed that with public opinion heading in the right direction, as his letter indicates that something concrete will soon come out of the many plans and proposals that, it is said, have been considered by the city authorities from time to time regarding making available need recreational facilities for all the people of Norfolk.

The letter as published in the Virginian-Pilot follows:

Editor Virginian-Pilot:

One of your recent editorials emphasizing the wisdom of improving living conditions of the colored race has suggested to me a phase of civic progress in which, as yet, our city officials have failed to duly consider the black man.

"About one-third the total population of Norfolk consist of Ne-

groes. There is not a breathing place in the entire city where colored people may feel free to go and enjoy the pleasures that public parks are intended to provide. Formerly, a small reservation in Lafayette Park was furnished with a few benches and a water tank for the exclusive use of Negroes, but those bare comforts were removed and that particular section entirely neglected by keepers and gardeners; thus was the Negro given most expressly to understand that his presence was undesirable in the principal and most beautiful recreational spot in the city. Since the carrying out of which appears to be the purpose of the Director of Public Welfare or who ever is in authority to discourage the presence of colored people in our public parks, is it not pertinent to inquire what sort of constructive program has he to offer as an alternative? To deny a minority group of people the pursuit of happiness in the direction that others are permitted to seek it may be in accord with that fallacious doctrine, might makes right, also it may gratify the oversensitive views of those who mistake every step toward fair treatment and a square deal as an advance towards social equality, but such an attitude on the part of public servants will not be shared nor endorsed by that substantial body of straight-thinking citizens who have a clear conception of special justice and wish to see it courageously administered in the affairs of civic life.

"It is true that there has been some talk of purchasing a park for the use of colored people only, but there has been a good deal of talk about auditoriums, city farms, and bathing beaches, etc. While the Negro usually goes on the Negro usu-ally living in some otherwise abandoned quarter of the city, in a side street, occupying an antiquated tenement, and paying a white landlord's investment. When the black man's flat-roofed house becomes unsufferably heated by the torrid summer sun during dog-days and the kerosene lamps during the mosquito-infested nights he seeks a bit of fresh air, not under the cool trees in some public square or restful park—there is none to bid him come—but on the doorsteps of his little home in a treeless street.

"Cold calculating, practical business men of the South, who have made a keen analysis of the unhappy economic situation that is threatened, indeed already exists, due to the migration of Negroes to the North are beginning to face the fact that other considerations than better wages have accelerated the Negroes' exodus from the South. No doubt, the unfriendly critics of Dixie have magnified social injustice that honesty and can-

Generosity, that admirable element of our American democracy, has graciously found expression in the open invitation we extend to the Japanese, Chinese, Greeks, Mexicans, Russians, Italians, Germans, Turks and others that have arrived via Ellis Island, to visit our parks and avail themselves of all the privilege afforded. This is as it should be. Let's be just as well as generous. Nearly all the Negroes living here were born and reared somewhere in Dixie. Almost every dollar they earn is spent to make up our cosmopolitan population, but simple justice demands that we do more for the Negroes. Any project that genuinely serves a group of people and makes for contentment, peacefulness, and the well-being of a people is an economic asset that spells more in the solid growth of Norfolk than big buildings and fine streets."

John J. Pitt
116 Randolph Street, Norfolk, Va.
July 21 1923.

Colored people

While all familiar with conditions in Villa Heights are aware that there is no merit in the recent suggestion that a park for colored people be established in that section, no doubt exists in the minds of those who have studied the question that a park for the members of that race should be provided in some suitable location. The Villa Heights suggestion must have been made jocularly for the place mentioned is all in white territory and there would be no chance of its ever being considered for the purpose.

But there should be a park at some appropriate place for the colored people. Some 10,000 of them make their homes here and the places in which they can enjoy recreation are few. This is a matter which may well be taken up for consideration by the city at its earliest convenience. Proper amusements and recreation have a far-reaching effect in making good citizens.

A Plea For Fair Play

Norfolk Journal & Guide
That was an interesting letter which Mr. John J. Pitt wrote to the Virginian-Pilot regarding park facilities for colored people of Norfolk, and which was published in the July 25 issue of that paper and is reprinted in another column of this issue of the JOURNAL AND GUIDE.

The letter strikes a high note and rings clear in its appeal for more government by right and less government by might. It is the expression of such sentiments as contained in Mr. Pitt's letter that presents a rift in the clouds of discrimination and social injustices that gather about the vision of the Negro in the South and makes him leave the land of his birth under Southern skies to seek habitat in lands, so strange to him, where the promise of a freer atmosphere holds out.

Mr. Pitt truthfully says that, "about one-third of the population of Norfolk consists of Negroes. There is not a place in the entire city where colored people may feel free to go and enjoy the pleasures that public parks are intended to provide. When the black man's flat-roofed house becomes unsufferably heated by the torrid summer sun during dog days and the kerosene lamps during mosquito-infested nights, he seeks a bit of fresh air, not under the cool trees in some public park or restful square—there is none to bid him come—but on the doorsteps of his little home in some treeless street."

In so far as recreation benefits a people, that is the humiliating and health-menacing condition of the colored man in Norfolk, his home city, where he is a loyal citizen and taxpayer. It is a condition that it ought not to be possible to find in any Christianized community, whether it be in the North or South. But the situation is even more pathetic

than the writer described. While the black man seeks a bit of fresh air on the stoop of his home in a treeless street, mother and babies crowd windows, like so many chickens in a coop, in an effort to catch a zephyr of refreshing breeze, while boys and girls of the dangerous age must be allowed to choose between roaming the streets or suffocation in a stuffy home.

It is true that "formerly a small reservation in Lafayette Park was furnished with a few benches and a water tank for the exclusive use of Negroes, but those bare comforts were removed and that particular section entirely neglected by keepers and gardeners; thus the Negro was given expressly to understand that his presence was undesirable in the principal and most beautiful recreational spot in the city."

But even to that segregated spot Negroes have never felt free to go. Its use could be had only under the most humiliating circumstances. Neglected and unkempt as it was, its condition ever presented a silent but sinister reminder that the Negroes were not welcome anywhere in the park. Few Negroes would compromise their self-respect and use that spot under conditions plainly meant to humiliate them. This condition of affairs constitutes a sear upon our Christian civilization, a mote in the rule of democracy and a plain repudiation of the principles of decent majority rule.

Medical science has pronounced that wholesome recreation is conducive to the good health and good morals of a people. Sociologists have pronounced that a lack of wholesome recreation fosters juvenile delinquency, moral derelictions, contributes to heavy court dockets, full jails and charity wards, all of which constitute a heavy burden upon the taxpayer.

Moreover, any people or group of people denied the opportunity to round out into a healthful citizenship morally, mentally and physically, form a loss in economic values to the communities of which they are a part equal to the aggregate deficiency suffered by each individual. Thus recreation is a thing bought and paid for whether it is provided or not. On this question the mandate of science is clear and distinct. But the dictates of the Golden Rule and social justice are even more poignant. The only question yet to be answered is, will the city continue to "deny to a minority group of people the pursuit of happiness in the direction that others are permitted to seek it?"

We have recently added to our city recreational facilities municipal golf links, a municipal tennis course (municipal as respects the advantaged classes) and there has been some talk of establishing a municipal auto camping rendezvous for the accommodation and

comfort of passing auto tourists. Now these things may all be necessary adjuncts to a progressive city, like ours, but the pity and shame of it is that we have not, with the exception of four playgrounds in public school yards, one municipal tree, under whose refreshing bows the Negro, whom we have with us always, may feel free to go and seek the solace of shade on a scorching summer's day. Not one green and shady spot where the colored mother may take her warm, fretting babe for a cooling breeze, provided by the municipality.

But, we believe with Mr. Pitt, that there is a substantial body of right thinking citizens in our city, who have a clear conception of social justice and wish to see it courageously administered in the affairs of civic life. The conditions as described in his letter constitute a shame to the right-thinking of these citizens. They are a challenge to their conception of social justice and fair-play. We are counting on them to accept the challenge, and with their support make it possible for our Director of Public Welfare to proceed with his program of increased recreational facilities for all Norfolk citizens.

W. goes Want More Parks

LYNCHBURG VA NEWS
JUNE 14, 1923
Pet. to City Manager For
Equitable Distribution Of
Recreation Facilities

MR. BECK MAKES REPLY

Points Out That Facilities Are Distributed in Manner More Than Fair on Population and Tax Paying Ratio

The distribution of playgrounds among the races is not only fair and equitable upon both the basis of population and revenue, but the colored inhabitants of Lynchburg have been favored at the expense of the white, in the opinion of City Manager E. A. Beck, expressed in a communication to the Common Weal Alliance and others in answer to a petition received from them June 5 that attention be directed to the division of recreational facilities at the Miller Park.

The petition, which is dated January 4, declares in part:

"We, the undersigned organizations and churches, become your petitioners in a matter which we realize is entirely within your power to dispose of; and one which has a deal to do with the ordinary phases of equity and justice in their relation to a particular group of your citizens.

Want More Facilities

"In view of the fact that about ten thousand colored men, women and children go to make up the population of our city, and that these same men, women and children, are, to a

large extent, the wage earners and unskilled laborers of this community, a group always, by its very employment, conscious of an immense capacity for recreation of any sort, we desire to enlist your interest, sympathy and support in an effort to provide sane and proper recreational facilities in our city park."

The petitioners then point out that there is a monopoly of conveniences for comfort as well as facilities for play by the white race at Miller Park, adding: "Because we feel that this condition results from thoughtless policy, and not a grounded principle, we submit this direct appeal, assured that you will make a thorough survey of the situation, and that changes for the better will suggest themselves to you at once." Closing with a petition for proper recreation for the negro youth, the group of petitioners includes members of the Common Weal Alliance, and the various colored churches of the city, represented by their pastors and other substantial citizens of the negro population.

In reply, the city manager, in a letter approved by the city council, said in part; "From the tone of your petition it appears that you are misinformed concerning the situation at Miller Park. The recreational facilities of which you speak, which are provided for the white race only, are not a part of the city park system, but on the contrary are installed and operated solely by the Department of Recreation and Playgrounds. This department administers four playgrounds as follows; For white at Guggenheimer-Milliken; for white at Miller Park; for white at Rivermont school grounds; for colored at Payne school grounds.

"The Guggenheimer-Milliken playgrounds were a gift to the city for the use of the white race only, so there has been established by the city but two playgrounds for the whites as compared to one for the colored. On the basis of population, the number of playgrounds provided for the colored people is at a somewhat greater ratio than the percentage of colored people to the total number of inhabitants of the city. Again, the expenditure for recreational facilities in the operation of this colored playground is far in excess of that for white facilities when considered in proportion to the percentage of taxes by the colored race."

Distribution Equitable

The city manager then explained that the distribution in his opinion is equitable and that the colored people are really favored by it, adding that the city could not consistently consider the extension of colored playground facilities at this time.

The city manager further pointed out in his letter that when the colored facilities are extended, that it will be in some other part of the city than Miller Park, as it is the policy of the city to maintain separate and distinct playgrounds for the races as to use and location.

The playground facilities, the letter states, are confused in the petition with the park facilities, and the former are maintained solely by the Recreation and Playground department.

The letter points out that provision has been made in sections of the park for the colored children as to drinking places, swings and seats, for the general park usage, and adds also that these facilities "are all and possibly more than the colored in-

habitants are fairly and equitably entitled to either on the basis of population or the amount of revenue contributed by them through taxation." The letter closes with an assurance of fair consideration.